

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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UNCLAS STATE 182729 TOSEC 080081

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)

SUBJECT: EVENING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, AUGUST 3

NO. 9

WIRE SERVICES

AP BARRY SCHWEID FROM BEIRUT

LEAD: "US SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE PAID A FOUR
HOUR VISIT TO THIS WAR-TORN CAPITAL TODAY AND OFFERED
DOLLARS 143 MILLION TO HELP REBUILD LEBANON."

--FUNDS WOULD COMPRISE DOLLARS 100 MILLION IN SOFT LOANS
TO REBUILD LEBANESE ARMY AND DOLLARS 43 MILLION MORE
IN HUMANITARIAN AND RECONSTRUCTION AID. '

--SOME ARAB NEWSPAPERS ALREADY CALLING VANCE MISSION FAIL-
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URE BECAUSE OF REMAINING OBSTACLES OVER PALESTINIAN ROLE
IN PEACE TALKS.

-- AL AHAM SAID SADAT REJECTED US SUGGESTION THAT
PALESTINIANS PARTICIPATE AT GENEVA ONLY AFTER THEY RECOG-
NIZE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST.

ALTHOUGH ARAFAT REPORTED TO BE IN DAMASCUS, AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY VANCE WOULD MEET DIRECTLY WITH HIM OR OTHER PALESTINIAN LEADERS DURING TOUR.

REUTERS

ROY GUTMAN FROM BEIRUT

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, WHO STOPPED HERE BRIEFLY TODAY EN ROUTE TO DAMASCUS, HAS APPARENTLY FAILED SO FAR TO MAKE DECISIVE PROGRESS TOWARD REMOVING THE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO GENEVA MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL ON BOARD MR. VANCE'S PLANE TOLD REPORTERS THAT EGYPTIAN LEADERS WHOM THE AMERICAN ENVOY MET IN ALEXANDRIA HAD 'NOT CONCURRED' IN SOME OF HIS PROPOSALS AND HAD MADE COUNTER-SUGGESTIONS OF THEIR OWN."

OTHER POINTS:

--AL AHRAM SAID EGYPT HAD REJECTED VANCE'S PROPOSALS ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA AND ON QUESTIONS OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND NATURE OF FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT.

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-- CHIEF OBSTACLE TO RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE IS ISSUE OF SEPARATE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION.

-- US OFFICIALS PLAYED DOWN IMPORTANCE OF AGREEMENT BY VANCE AND SADAT TO PRESS FOR WORKING GROUP CONSULTATIONS IN US NEXT MONTH AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL.

-- IN BEIRUT PRESS CONFERENCE VANCE SAID IT WAS UP TO PARTIES CONCERNED TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A MEETING.

AP

JIM ANDERSON FROM DAMASCUS

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE FLEW TO DAMASCUS WEDNESDAY TO WIN CRUCIAL SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR HIS PLAN TO SET UP A 'WORKING GROUP' OF ARAB AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTERS IN ADVANCE OF GENEVA PEACE TALKS."

OTHER POINTS:

--ASSAD'S VIEWS ON PROPOSAL ARE UNKNOWN; HIS COOPERATION WOULD BE VITAL.

-- IN BEIRUT VANCE SAID AT NEWS CONFERENCE THAT US WAS OFFERING UP TO DOLLARS 100 MILLION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON OVER THREE YEAR PERIOD, INCLUDING DOLLARS 25 MILLION IN IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE.

--VANCE AND SADAT LEFT UNCLEAR WHETHER PALESTINIANS WOULD BE DIRECTLY REPRESENTED AT WORKING GROUP SESSION.

--AFTER MEETING OF ASSAD WITH TOP PLO LEADERS TUESDAY, PLB SAID ASSAD WOULD DELIVER THEIR VIEW ON WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL TO VANCE.

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--EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS CAUTIONED WORKING GROUP SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE OR FOR UN ROLE IN PROMOTING SETTLEMENT.

--WORKING GROUP BELIEVED TO BE AT LEAST IN PART DEVICE TO KEEP MOMENTUM GOING TOWARD PEACE IN FACE OF DIFFERENCES.

--EGYPTIAN SOURCES SAID DIFFERENCES INCLUDED SADAT'S REJECTION OF US PROPOSAL FOR PHASED FIVE-YEAR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB TERRITORIES IN EXCHANGE FOR GRADUAL TRANSITION TO FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARABS.

NETWORKS

TV NETWORKS CARRIED NO REPORTS FROM TRAVELLING PRESS. ABC AND CBS BRIEFLY NOTED SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FROM BEIRUT AND ARRIVAL IN DAMASCUS.

CHRISTOPHER

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